



NABARD Sanctions Rs 1,974 Crore to Rajasthan | Rajasthan | 12 Jan 2024

Why in News?

Under the **Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) for 2023-24**, [National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development \(NABARD\)](#) has sanctioned Rs 1,974.07 crore to the Rajasthan government.

Key Points

- According to NABARD Rajasthan Chief General Manager **Rs 930.44 crore** has been sanctioned for three rural drinking water supply projects in Ajmer, Jalore, and Kota districts.
 - **Rs 926.48 crore** was sanctioned for the construction of 676 rural roads in the desert and tribal areas of the state.
 - Earlier, **Rs 117.15 crore** had been sanctioned for the construction of 104 veterinary hospitals and 431 sub-centres in all districts of the state.
- Drinking water supply projects are expected to provide clean and potable water to 2.87 lakh households in 2,500 villages, whereas rural road projects will improve connectivity in 1,229 villages across 12 districts.
- NABARD is also supporting the state government in bringing 4.28 lakh hectares under micro-irrigation with a support of Rs 740 crore from the [Micro Irrigation Fund](#).
- The lining of 450 km of earthen canals in Kota and Bundi districts is under construction following a Rs 623.38 crore assistance under NABARD Infrastructure Development Assistance.

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)

- It is a **development bank** focussing primarily on the rural sector of the country. It is the apex banking institution to provide finance for Agriculture and rural development.
 - Its headquarter is located in Mumbai, the country's financial capital.
- It is a **statutory body established in 1982** under the **Parliamentary act-National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Act, 1981**.

The Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF)

- It was set up by the Government of India in 1995-96 for financing ongoing rural Infrastructure projects.
 - The Fund is maintained by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).
 - The main objective of the Fund is to provide loans to State Governments and State-owned corporations to enable them to complete ongoing rural infrastructure projects.
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Wetland City Accreditation | Rajasthan | 12 Jan 2024

Why in the News?

The [Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change \(MoEF&CC\)](#) has recently submitted **three nominations from India for the [Wetland City Accreditation \(WCA\)](#).**

- **The nominated cities include Indore** (Madhya Pradesh), **Bhopal** (Madhya Pradesh), and **Udaipur** (Rajasthan).

Key Points

- Udaipur city is surrounded by **five major wetlands: Pichola, Fateh Sagar, Rang Sagar, Swaroop Sagar, and Doodh Talai.**
- These wetlands are an integral part of the city's culture and identity, **help maintain the city's microclimate, and provide a buffer from extreme events.**
- The ongoing [Amrit Dharohar initiative](#) by the **MoEF&CC** aligns with WCA goals, promoting the conservation values of [Ramsar Sites](#).

Other Nominated Cities For the WCA

- **Sirpur Lake**, a Ramsar Site in Indore, has been recognised as an important site for **water bird congregation and is being developed as a Bird Sanctuary.**
- **Bhoj Wetland**, Ramsar Site is Bhopal's lifeline, equipped with the **world-class wetlands interpretation centre, Jal Tarang.**

Wetland City Accreditation (WCA)

- The WCA is a **voluntary accreditation system established by the Ramsar Convention** during the **Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP) 12**, 2015 to recognize cities that have taken exceptional steps to safeguard their urban wetlands.
 - The WCA is **valid for 6 years.**
- The scheme **aims to promote the conservation and wise use of urban and peri-urban wetlands**, as well as sustainable socio-economic benefits for local populations.